

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Public Involvement Summary

Public participation is an important component of any planning process. For the proposed Fire Management Plan and Environmental Assessment process, Bryce Canyon used several strategies to involve the public. External scoping was initiated in January 2004 and continued throughout the planning process. Scoping strategies included:

- Distributed over 200 scoping newsletters to individuals, organizations, and government agencies. The newsletter outlined the proposal and described the process for public involvement.
- Posted the newsletter and workshop notices on the Bryce Canyon internet homepage.
- Hosted two public information workshops in surrounding communities (Tropic, UT, January 22, 2004 - Panguitch, UT, January 27, 2004); 18 interested individuals attended the workshops.
- Published notices of the planning/environmental assessment process and workshops information in local newspapers.

The park received 6 scoping comment letters. The general concerns identified in the letters and where those concerns are addressed in this document are summarized below.

Vegetation

- Keeping historic meadows from being invaded by trees.
- Clearing of underbrush and dead trees all infested trees with beetles more of a fire hazard.
- How future fire suppression practices will be changed to restore natural fire regimes and patterns, and to avoid excessive fuel accumulations. How NPS interpretative programs and products will be changed to foster greater public understanding of the ecological importance of fire and the stupidity of past suppression programs.

Visitor Use and Experience and Economic Considerations

- Timing of Burns. Not during holiday and tourist season. Loss of tourism money, poor information, media attention. End of fall burn (October).
- How to prevent large-scale fire problems and to appease all parties.
- Continued close communication on when burns may occur. Clear information for tourists helping them to understand fire source and reasons.

Alternatives Considered but Dismissed

- Sell trees for firewood or lumber.
- Use of domestic livestock to reduce fuels.

Alternatives

- Development of criteria for "let fire proceed unabated"
- Spend some of the money to hire more people to do the job.
- An alternative to maximize the use of prescribed fire and minimizes mechanical treatments, especially in remote or backcountry areas. An alternative to seasonally limit treatments to avoid disturbance to tourists, nesting birds, migrating deer, etc.

General Comments

- The Federal Government would have the equipment to protect at least the parks.

- I strongly support and applaud progressive fuels and fire management practices that respect the ecological necessity of restoring natural fire regimes and patterns. Despite decades of “Smokey Bear” anti-fire propaganda, fire is necessary and beneficial, management must change to reflect this reality.
- While fire can be very useful in reducing fuel loads in certain situations, I am opposed to burning where each individual tree is tried to be ignited. A good example of this is along the Tom Best Spring Road there was not enough fuel to carry a fire so the result is a half dead tree that looks awful.

National Historic Preservation Act. In accordance with the Act, letters requesting tribal consultation were mailed to the following tribes: Ute Mountain Ute, White Mesa Ute, Navajo Tribe, Skull Valley Goshute, Goshute Indian Tribe, and San Juan Southern Paiute.

State Historic Preservation Office. A letter requesting scoping comments was sent to the State Historic Preservation Office in January 2004. No comments were received. A copy of this document will be sent to the SHPO for review and comment as part of the Section 106 process.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Park staff contacted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by letter on January 5, 2004. A reply identifying endangered and threatened species in and around the park was received on January 22, 2004. This correspondence can be found in Appendix E. The NPS will send a copy of the EA to the USFWS for review under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

List of Preparers

Name	Project Role	Title
National Park Participants		
Craig Axtell	Review	Superintendent (Bryce)
Bruce Fields	Preparer	Assistant Fire Management Officer/Fuels Specialist (Bryce)
Jan Passek	Preparer	Fire Management Officer (Zion)
Henry Bastian	Preparer	Fire Ecologist (Bryce)
Kristin Legg	Preparer	Chief Resource Management & Research (Bryce)
David Eaker	Information/Education	Fire Information/Education Specialist (Bryce)
Sarah Horton	Cultural Resources	Archaeologist (Zion)
Kristen Meyer	Data Compilation, Maps	Forestry Tech (Zion)
Royce Pollock	Review	Maintenance Division (Bryce)
Kevin Poe	Review	Park Ranger, Interpretation (Bryce)
Brent McGinn	Review	Chief Ranger (Bryce)
Bruce Silliaman	Review	Purchasing Agent
Eva Long	NEPA Review	Environmental Protection Specialist (Intermountain Regional Office)
Consultant Participants		
Nancy VanDyke	Author – Affected Environment and Impacts Wildlife, TES Animals, TES Plants, Vegetation and Wetlands, technical review	Consultant Project Manager
Lisa Pine	Author – Affected Environment and Impacts – Air Quality, Soils, Water Quality & Hydrology, Consultation and Coordination Chapter	Environmental Planner
Bob Mutaw	Author – Affected Environment and Impacts – Cultural Resources	Cultural Resources Manager

Name	Project Role	Title
National Park Participants		
Pam Roszell	Author - Affected Environment and Impacts – Natural Soundscapes, Wilderness, Economic Considerations, Public Health & Safety, Visitor Use & Experience	Environmental Planner
Patricia Steinholtz	Document Editing	Editor

List of Environmental Assessment Recipients

Federal Agencies

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Bureau of Land Management

Cedar City Field Office

Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Kanab Field Office

Utah State Office

Vermilion Cliffs National Monument

National Forest Service

Dixie National Forest

Kaibab National Forest

North Kaibab Ranger District

National Park Service

Arches National Park

Canyonlands National Park

Capitol Reef National Monument

Cedar Breaks National Monument

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

Grand Canyon National Park

Pipe Spring National Monument

Utah State Coordinator

Zion National Park

U.S. Corps of Engineers

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region VIII

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Geological Survey

State and Local Agencies and Governments

Anasazi Indian Village State Park

Five County Association of Governments

Garfield County Commissioners

Iron County Commissioners

Kane County Commissioners

Kane County Water Conservancy District

Mayor of Cedar City, UT

Mayor of Canyonville, UT

Mayor of Hatch, UT

Mayor of Kanab, UT
Mayor of Panguitch, UT
Mayor of Tropic, UT
Utah Department of Environmental Quality
Utah Department of Natural Resources
Utah Division of Air Quality
Utah Division of Drinking Water
Utah Division of Water Resources
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Utah Office of the Governor
Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration
Utah State Clearinghouse
Utah State Historic Preservation Officer

Indian Tribes

Goshute Indian Tribe
Navajo Tribe
Northern Band of the Shoshoni Tribe
San Juan Southern Paiute
Shivwits Paiute Band
Skull Valley Goshute
Ute Mountain Ute
White Mesa Ute

Organizations

Back Country Horsemen of Utah
Bryce Canyon Natural History Association
Canyon Trail Riders
Daily Spectrum
Defenders of Wildlife
Desert News
Garfield County News
Grand Canyon Trust
Grand Canyon Wildlands Council
National Audubon Society
National Parks and Conservation Association
National Trust for Historic Preservation
National Wildlife Federation
Partners in Parks
Salt Lake Tribune
Sierra Club
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
Southwest Forest Alliance
The Access Fund
The Nature Conservancy
The Wilderness Society
Wilderness Watch

Local Businesses

Backcountry Horsemen of Utah
Best Western Resort
Bryce Canyon Airport
Bryce Canyon Livery
Bryce Canyon Lodge
Bryce Canyon Pines
Bryce Country Cabins
Bryce Junction Inn
Bryce Pioneer Village
Bryce Point B&B
Bryce Resorts
Bryce Trail B&B
Bryce Valley Business Association
Bryce Valley KOA
Bybee's Stepping Stone
Canyon Trail Rides
Cedar Breaks Lodge
Color Country Travel Council
Doug's Place and Country Inn
Fox's Bryce Trails B&B
Francisco's Farm B&B
Garfield County Travel Council
Golden Hills Motel
Grand Staircase Inn
Horizon Motel
Iron County Travel Council
Kane County Travel Council
Lewis Brothers Stages
M&S Aero
Ruby's Inn
Scenic Flights
Utah State Chambers of Commerce Association
Western Town Resorts

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